

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 /062 W

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R 121213Z JAN 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 278

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1522

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EXPORT CREDIT GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT -- COMMISSION CONCERN
OVER BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: 75 EC BRUSSELS 11476, 75 EC BRUSSELS 10660

1. EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR KLEIN CALLED THE MISSION TODAY REGARDING RUMORS THAT SEVERAL EC MEMBER STATE AND US OFFICIALS WERE DISCUSSING BILATERALLY THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT. KLEIN HAD HEARD ONE REPORT THAT A MEETING WAS TAKING PLACE IN LONDON THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12 BETWEEN SEVERAL MEMBER STATE AND US OFFICIALS. THE MISSION TOLD KLEIN THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING THESE REUMORS.

2. KLEIN SAYS THE COMMISSION HAS NO OBJECTION TO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IT HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH SUCH CONTACTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN LIGHT OF THE COMMISSION POSITION THAT IT NOW HAS EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION IN NEGOTIATING EXPORT CREDIT MATTERS FOR THE EC (SEE FIRST REF), THE COMMISSION IS CONCERNED IF THESE REPORTED CONTACTS SHOULD CONSTITUTE OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS OR IF AN AGREE-
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MENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED. IN SUCH A CASE, THE COMMISSION

WOULD CONSIDER THE SITUATION TO BE AN ENFRINGEMENT ON ITS COMPETENCE. SHOULD AN AGREEMENT BE REACHED AMONG SOME PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT THE COMMISSION'S PARTICIPATION, KLEIN SAYS THE COMMISSION WOULD THEN HAVE TO TAKE THE MEMBER STATES CONCERNED TO THE EUROPEAN COURT TO BLOCK SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. KLEIN ADDS THAT THE COMMISSION SENT TO THE MEMBER STATES ITS REQUEST FOR A MANDATE FOR IT TO NEGOTIATE A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT ON ABOUT JANUARY 8. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT YET RECEIVED MEMBER STATE REACTIONS TO THIS REQUEST. THE EC EXPORT CREDIT WORKING GROUP WILL MEET HERE ON JANUARY 14-15, AT WHICH TIME THE COMMISSION EXPECTS TO OBTAIN AN INITIAL REACTION TO ITS PROPOSAL.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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